

ESCALANTE VALLEY , UTAH

1975 - 1976

The 1975-1976 water year was quite mild with precipitation slightly below the 1941-1970 normal, 91%. Two abnormally wet months, February - 181% and July - 236% of average were the only significant departures from normal. Otherwise monthly precipitation was either slightly below normal or near normal.

One specific note of interest is that precipitation was below normal four of the last five months of the water year. This dry period coupled with one of the driest October-December periods of record for 1976 has created a serious drought situation.

Monthly temperature data during the year showed no significant departures from normal and were generally near average for the water year.

Streamflow for the water year at Beaver was 18,500 acre-feet, 62% of the 15-year (1958-1972) average, about 9,000 acre-feet below the previous year. Minersville Reservoir contained 14,720 acre-feet of water, 105% of average on April 30, 1976.

TABLE I

Weather Data for Stations in or near Escalante Valley, Utah
Mofford Area 1974-1976

MILFORD WSO											
OCT		NOV		DEC		JAN		FEB		MAR	
Temperature		37.5	30.4	20.9	26.9	43.3	44.3	59.4	59.5	69.3	73.3
1974	49.2	37.9	25.5	24.2	30.2	37.6	39.5	49.9	62.4	73.1	70.5
1975	49.9	37.9	28.9	26.2	34.4	32.3	44.7	58.1	63.5	74.7	69.2
1976	47.8	33.4	28.6	25.7	31.4	38.1	47.2	56.5	65.2	74.3	68.6
1941-70 Avg.	50.7	37.3									72.6
Precipitation											
1974	1.58	1.58	.22	1.51	.36	.45	.82	.01	.00	1.03	.23
1975	1.29	.38	.16	.35	.50	.80	.60	.87	.70	1.37	.74
1976	.35	.76	.46	.37	1.67	1.06	1.18	.34	.07	1.08	.15
1941-70 Avg.	.78	.67	.73	.61	.70	1.04	.90	.61	.56	.51	.68
MINERSVILLE											
Temperature											
Precipitation											
1974	.88	.99	.47	1.88	.10	.61	1.88	.00	.00	.65	.08
1975	1.99	.54	.23	.39	.51	1.30	1.46	2.02	.40	3.90	.26
1976	.47	.69	.53	.30	1.65	1.22	1.10	.26	.06	2.50	.77
1941-70 Avg.	.83	.82	.76	.71	.83	1.15	.97	.67	.52	.86	.18
BEAVER											
Temperature											
1974	47.6	36.1	30.5	24.9	28.0	44.5	43.0	56.0	64.8	69.3	.60.5
1975	48.5	37.4	26.3	26.5	30.0	35.0	36.3	48.9	59.4	67.4	64.6
1976	46.9	35.1	31.7	28.7	35.8	34.1	44.2	56.3	63.2	70.5	65.9
1941-70 Avg.	48.9	36.8	29.6	27.7	31.7	36.9	45.3	53.9	61.8	69.3	67.6
Precipitation											
1974	.73	.96	.72	1.92	.36	.73	1.85	.00	.00	2.31	.07
1975	1.55	.36	.22	.93	.72	1.45	1.47	1.89	.40	1.66	.17
1976	.45	.60	.61	.33	1.18	1.04	1.84	.40	.05	2.25	.30
1941-70 Avg.	.88	.85	.71	.95	1.00	1.11	1.14	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.00